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and geographical distribution of the various sorts. The book is full of good information put in an attractive style and should find abundant welcome.—O. W. CALDWELL.

MINOR NOTICES.

THE THIRD FASCICLE of "Illustrations de la Flore du Congo," by Willem-deman and Durand, has just appeared, containing twelve plates, with descriptive text. The plates are exceedingly handsome, and their number has now reached thirty-six.—J. M. C.

A NEW classification of the Leucobryaceæ is proposed by M. Jules Cardot in *Revue Bryologique* 26: 1-8. *pl. 1.* 1899. It is based chiefly upon the anatomical characters of the leaves as shown by cross-sections, such as the presence or absence of sclereides, and the form and arrangement of the chlorophyllose cells.—C. R. B.

SOME RESEARCHES of Loeb upon the influence of alkalies and acids upon embryonal development and growth⁷ led to results which may have important applications to the growth of plants. He finds that weak alkalies (even .006% NaHO) accelerate the development and growth of larvæ of Arbacia (a sea-urchin) and the embryos of Fundulus (a fish), while weak acids retard. The cause of these actions is to be sought in the effect of the reagents on the oxidative processes of the protoplasm.—C. R. B.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS.

GEORGE J. PEIRCE has been studying the nature of the association of alga and fungus in lichens.⁸ Speaking of the algae he says that "it is neither logical nor sensible to conclude that their unusual position is beneficial to them," as free algæ can thrive, at least for a time, wherever lichens can. "There is no proof that algal cells serving as lichen gonidia are any better off as to food, protection, or situation than the average free algal cells of the same species." Of course the fungus is found to be absolutely dependent upon the alga. The author also affirms that the central body of the gonidial cells of Ramalina, Usnea, and Sphærophorus, is a nucleus, not a pyrenoid.—J. M. C.

HERMANN VON SCHRENK⁹ has been investigating a disease of *Taxodium* known as peckiness, and also a similar disease of *Libocedrus decurrens*. In both cases the wood is destroyed in localized areas, which are surrounded by

⁷ Archiv f. Entw.-mechanik der Organismen 7: 631-641. *pl. 1.* 1898.

⁸ Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci. III. 1: 207-240. *pls. 41.* 1899.

⁹ Eleventh Ann. Rep. Mo. Bot. Gard. 1-55. *pls. 6.* 1899.